

In the Specification

On page 5, after paragraph 16, please insert the following paragraph:

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a tandem free operation inband signaling synchronization system.

On page 17, before paragraph 36, please insert the following paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 8, one embodiment includes a tandem free operation inband signaling synchronization system 800 comprising: a storage device 802 for maintaining a plurality of sample grids, wherein samples are collected from a signaling channel and are used to fill the plurality of sample grids; and a detector 804 for detecting the presence of an inband signaling channel based on the contents of the plurality of sample grids, wherein a detected inband signaling channel is used to synchronize devices to facilitate tandem free operation, and wherein the collection of samples continues during synchronization to maintain the plurality of sample grids for facilitation of rapid resynchronization.